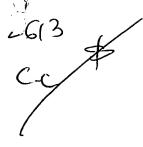


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE



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Filing Date:

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Applicant:

Paolo Prandoni et al.

Examiner:

Le, Vu

Art Unit 2613

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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27,862

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Sir:

Please enter this amendment which is in response to the Office action of August 26, 2004.

Amendments to the claims are shown in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the drawing are on page 7 of this paper and include a replacement sheet for Fig. 1 which is attached to this paper.

Remarks/arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

Attached further is a payment authorization form for the extension fee in the amount of \$55.00.